

EAST PALESTINE COUNCIL - REGULAR - MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2012

Mayor Margo Zuch called the meeting to order. Present were Wisser, Elzer, Figley, Sunny Hull, Rauch & Tyger. Minutes of the February 27 Development Committee meeting and Regular meeting were approved on a motion by Rauch, seconded by Tyger. Carried. The monthly Police/Parking, Park, Building, Income Tax, Investment & Fund Cash reports were approved as presented on a motion by Rauch, seconded by Tyger. Carried. It was noted that the Chief didn't have the Fire Department report prepared by quitting time on Friday, so there was no February report from that Department in the packets. It will be presented at a meeting at a later date.

AGENDA: **John Herbert** distributed pamphlets regarding fracking. He noted he already distributed another one about fracking to Council members. He said he worked in oil fields long ago & there can be big problems. He said he is very concerned for EP if fracking is done. He also talked about all the trucks that are coming through our town now. He said we need clean industry in EP.

CLERK Cindy Clark said she's received 22 applications so far from people wanting to work as lifeguards, concession stand employees or ticket booth employees this summer at the Park. She said the deadline for applications is March 30th & noted that only 3 of the 22 applications are for life guarding positions and we need more than that to open the pool. She received a letter from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control regarding a change in the names of stockholders at the Casa De Fiesta Mexican Restaurant at 333 W. Main Street. This was turned over to Scott Rauch. The Clerk then noted how a visitor from the last meeting deliberately tore a portion of the visitors list that contained signatures off & took it with them. She asked that it not happen again, as she would like the minutes to reflect all those who attended the meeting.

MAYOR Margo Zuch said that she attended a County Board of Health meeting as a representative of EP & was asked if she was a reporter. She noted the new store, "Alpaca & Ewe" opened Saturday & asked people to support this new business. She also said she has been checking on the progress of those who get building permits.

MANAGER Gary Clark said that the electric aggregation mailings are going out. He said that people who stay with the aggregation will get 4% off through April of this year. In April it will rise to 6% to 2015. No action is needed unless people want to opt out. The discount appears as a shopping credit. Clark then spoke about the legislation dealing with OWDA. It authorizes us to apply for a planning loan for the reservoir project, the replacement option, not the repair option. He explained that this is a contingency. The loans are only open until the middle of the month. Clark said if we are going to take this option he needs authority by the 15th. He said this means we will qualify for a loan, not that we have to draw the money. He said we need to keep that option open because if we are not permitted to repair the reservoir, we need to be on a fast track with replacement. There is not a penalty for not taking it. Clark said that happens all the time & that is how some of our projects came up this year. It is because others backed out & that let us move up. He said they are aware that this is contingency. He said waiting could put us behind schedule especially if we are working in the fall. Clark said we have until June to authorize the Enviro Science proposal. It is almost \$19,000 so authorization legislation from Council is not required. Clark said he is in the habit of asking Council's permission when things involve a large amount of money. Figley wanted to know if this is mandatory & Clark said it is. Figley asked if this is the only bid we have received. John Jurjavic started to speak at this time, saying to do that test you have to have a company that is a Level III biologist and this is one of the few companies around that do this. Jurjavic said he, "called around" and this is who he ended up with. Figley asked if it's true that we don't have any choice. Jurjavic said, "Yes. It's for the phosphorus." Jurjavic said we are supposed to do a study & if we don't do the study we could get locked into a very low level in our phosphorous limits. Jurjavic further explained this. Figley asked if the \$19,000 is "locked in" & Clark said it could go higher. Jurjavic continued to explain this procedure & the reasons for it. Elzer asked if this is a one-time thing or if it will have to be done periodically. Jurjavic hopes it is one time. Endia Wisser asked if this is something to do with the Wheathill water reservoir. Jurjavic told her that he is talking about the waste water treatment plant. Jurjavic & Figley talked about the procedures. Jurjavic said it needs to be done in June. Wisser again asked what this is about & Jurjavic explained it is about phosphorus. Clark asked Council what they want to do at this time. Tyger made a motion to go with Clark & Jurjavic's plan for the phosphorous study. Hull seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Clark said he received notice regarding recycling and fund raising services. He said there is a program for businesses. Elzer asked about the reservoir. Clark said we turned it off last week and coincidentally there were a couple of water breaks afterwards. Jurjavic said he hopes it was a coincidence. Jurjavic explained what happened. He said it will be shut down again Tuesday or Wednesday. He said if they start breaking they will start it back up. Elzer said he assumes the lines breaking are old. Jurjavic gave his ideas on this. We won't know anything until next week according to Jurjavic. He said they are seeing

how the system reacts. Zuch said that is why tonight's legislation on this is important. Rauch said the gas price at 4.0125 is very good & probably the lowest. Rauch then said that we are hiring some part-time help & he feels we need to keep them part-time. Figley said since Clark invited Council to the interviews for Police Chief he hoped that they would be involved with hiring part-time people for the street crew but he sees that Clark already did this. Figley thought that they were going to sit down & help with the interviews of people for the street crew but Clark said he did not remember telling Council that they would be at the interviews for street crew applicants. Wisser asked about posting & Clark said he went through applications. Rauch said if the town is hiring administrators he wants to help, but he certainly doesn't want to "micro-manage" the hiring of all of the part-time people because that would include interviewing all of the applications that come in for summer jobs at the park. Figley said that street crew employees are different than those hired at the Park. Figley said that we need "better qualified people at the street department". Clark said the one applicant has not replied that he wants the job so he said if Council wants to be involved if that applicant says, "No", they can. Figley said he thought this was understood previously. Rauch reiterated that he thinks Council should be involved in hiring administrators, but not part-time employees. Rauch said that Clark wouldn't mind if Figley wants to be involved. Figley said he witnessed things that show we need help. He spoke of the E. Main Street project & said it took 3 weeks. Figley said, "with qualified help - " At this time Wisser entered the hiring discussion, saying, "Some younger blood". Hull asked Clark if Figley could help him & Clark said, "Absolutely. I never turn down help." Figley asked how people knew about it & Clark said he went through a stack of 10 or 12 applications & gave priority to those who had CDL licenses.

LAW DIRECTOR Shirley Smith said she has continued to talk with companies on the list that she gave to Council at the last meeting regarding the oil and gas leases. Smith said Chesapeake will have their head people from Oklahoma in Tues. & she will follow up with them on Wednesday. She said, "We are in consideration for that." She said she met with Royal Dutch Shell for 2 hours & went through provisions & addendum clauses. She spoke to Hillcorp & is still waiting to hear from BP. There has been phone tag with them. She spoke to the school & said that 6 or 8 others may join & work together. Smith said that certain members of Council have expressed their interest in moving this process forward as expeditiously as possible. Due to that direction from Council, she went ahead & drafted legislation so that if Council chooses to do so, they could pass legislation tonight to authorize the manager to sign prior to the next meeting. She stressed that this legislation is just before Council for them to consider and it is up to Council as to whether they want to do this or not. Smith drafted this legislation in case something becomes available prior to the next meeting. She said we are still waiting for a lease to be offered & then be evaluated. Smith was asked if this would be based solely on the dollar amount but she said it wouldn't be solely on money. She said it would be based on highest & best, most advantageous. She said the money does matter but certain protections and green clauses also matter & are important. Wisser said, "What's a green clause?" Smith explained that this is for protection of the water, soil, land, housing, surface & drilling issues. Wisser heard that they will come under the land anyway & that people say we may as well reap the benefits, but she is unsure about that if there would be any contamination. Smith explained the procedure & said they get a permit & there is the declaration of a drilling unit. She said legally they can't drill on other people's property, explained about trespassing, & said in actuality the only people who really know are those who are doing the drilling. She said if they truly need your land there is also a forced lease provision. She said it is similar to a public domain situation. She feels it is harder, though, & explained what people get in that situation. Elzer asked about the 2-week span between meetings & Smith said it can be a little like the stock market, as there are variables. Smith said that other towns have passed blanket legislation to permit the Manager or others to sign without further action from Council. She again said that she wrote the legislation this way for Council to decide. Mayor Zuch said that if Council wants to pass the legislation tonight they can. If they don't want to, they don't have to. Figley said that he wants to wait & not pass it. Figley also said he was contacted by someone who suggested that any money brought in from cemetery lands be used at the cemetery. It was noted that this had been discussed before & the thought is that cemetery funds go to the cemetery & Park funds go to the Park. Smith was directed to prepare legislation stating this. It was noted that there is a little bit of land other places but that the majority of land is located in the Park & cemetery. Rauch said they are talking about earthquakes & wells & said we could be gambling by waiting 2 or 3 weeks, but Figley said we have been wanting to do this since the first of the year. He said we may have missed the boat for the time being but it may come back later.

STREET: Figley said that Clark had notified all of Council of the start dates for street paving. He said he requested the filling of pot holes, but very little has been done due to the crews being tied up on the Main Street job. There was discussion about putting a notification of street work dates on the sign by the tracks.

SAFETY/PARK/RECREATION/CEMETERY: Rauch said Sgt. Dickey is working with the new Chief already & commended the teamwork there. He spoke of the fingerprint system grant. He feels when the new Chief begins, he should also involve the other officers with grant writing. Rauch

talked about how fast our Fire. Dept. responded & put out a fire recently. He said they moved with precision & it was amazing. He said it made you proud of our department. Rauch then suggested the possibility of lowering the prices of the lots at Leslie Run Estates. He knows 2 people who would be interested. He said maybe if they build a house within 6 months or a year we could give them a reduction in price. But Elzer said housing prices will start to go up due to the drilling. Rauch said he doesn't want to raise prices because he wants to be inviting to people. Elzer said the lots are already lower priced than others in this area. Figley said there are 5 lots for sale at Malibu for \$10,000 each. Figley & Finance Director Traci Thompson gave different figures when the subject of Leslie Run taxes was brought up, with one saying one thing and the other saying another thing. Elzer also suggested increasing the cost of a pool pass for people from out of town or decreasing costs for those from town who buy passes to help with the passage of the levies. Rauch will discuss this with the Park Board.

DEVELOPMENT: Elzer said there will be a meet & greet for the new Chief on April 7th at the Community Center. At 6 only invited guests are to be there. Others can join at 7. Elzer then brought up the summer Council schedule. He said that everyone knows that he opposes meeting only once each month as Council has done in the past. He feels it causes problems with legislation. Clerk Cindy Clark noted that Council is scheduled to meet on Memorial Day this year & the motion for summer recess is usually made the same night as an alternative May date is chosen. Rauch brought up summer vacations & the fact that his wife is off in the summer. Although Council member absences are addressed in the Charter, Elzer said that the rules could be changed to allow for Council members to miss and have this "not count". Rauch made a motion, seconded by Tyger to only meet one meeting a month, the second Monday of June, July and Aug. (1st meeting). Motion was seconded. Rauch, Tyger & Hull voted to have one per month. Elzer, Figley & Wisser opposed meeting only once each month. Mayor Zuch broke the tie by voting to meet only once each month. Rauch made a motion, seconded by Tyger to move the Memorial Day meeting to May 29th. Motion carried unanimously. Elzer then said there was a misunderstanding regarding the annexation in the paper. Elzer said they are still working on the other annexation. Elzer then said that due to Sunshine Laws Council members are not supposed to get together outside of the Council room to "talk about Gary". Elzer said he wants the opportunity to go into executive session - just the six of them - to talk about Gary. Zuch said after reading the recent article in the newspaper about the Sunshine Law, this doesn't sound legal to her. Zuch said you need to be very explicit about what you're doing if you go into executive session. She said she doesn't think you can go into executive session in order to "just sit and talk" about somebody. Elzer said, "How do you do a review?" and was told that these are done on paper. Rauch explained that for 9 years reviews were done. Elzer said that they weren't discussed & Rauch said that he gave everyone a copy. Rauch said that Council members can bring up a review to Council at any time but Council doesn't need to go into executive session for this. Law Director Smith said it should be done at an open meeting. She also said the Charter governs this. Zuch handed the newspaper clipping to the Law Director. She noted a group was fined hundreds of dollars because of the way they went into executive session. Elzer then said, "Then 3 of us can't meet & talk." Hull told Elzer, "You can meet, but you better be eating supper or be drinking a bottle of beer and not talking about Council." Figley said, "Then we'll just meet in open Council next time & let the people in on it. I like that." Clark said that typically in the past council has provided input regarding administrative goals in writing, pass it & then Clark would do what he was instructed to do. He said that was all done in public. Clark said, "To go behind closed doors and talk about me goes against the Charter as well as Sunshine Laws. The Charter gives me participation in all Council meetings." Hull said it is up to Tyger to handle the reviews. Rauch noted that they have been done in the past, but last year there wasn't one. He explained how he did these in the past & how he met with Gary regarding them. Figley wanted to know about bringing up things & was told by Rauch & Zuch to bring them up on a one-on-one basis in Clark's office. Smith again told Council that they have to follow the Charter. Rauch said that any time he wanted to discuss things with Clark they e-mailed each other. Elzer said in his private business, "the Department heads just got together & talked about the employees & wrote a review & said, 'here's how we do it'." Elzer was told by Rauch that this is a government body & Elzer just can't do what he does in his private business. Figley said, "Everything's going all right with the City the way it is, so why don't we just leave it the status quo. He's done a good job, everything's great. Right, Margo? So let's forget about that." Visitor and former employee, Ben Terwilliger, who was not on the agenda started talking about executive sessions in the past. Again it was noted that the Sunshine Rules should be followed "to the letter". There were some remarks and laughter & more discussion on executive sessions in the past & the reasons for some of them. Smith noted that she usually has a copy of the Open Meeting Laws with her & said anyone who wants to can read them.

UTILITY: Wisser said that Wheathill Reservoir was already discussed earlier.

FINANCE: Tyger said that funds from Medicare have not been coming in - there was a switch to electronic filing and they are behind. He told Council not to panic when they see the next Fire Dept. report. Rauch had a Finance question regarding CDBG funds which Thompson answered.

VISITORS: Barb Lynch, Mary Anne Tyger, Merle Stewart, Dan Scott, Emery Coon, Chuck McGuire, Rich Bolon, Park Grim, Katie Schwendeman, Dianna Elzer, Jerry Coblenz, Don Johnson, Bonnie Wittenauer, Brian Moore, Dan & Pam Figley, Brock & John Jurjavcic, John & Bonnie Davis, Tiffany Inman, Dave Biggins, Ben Terwilliger, Tami Harris, Heather Loyd, Israel Loyd, John Herbert signed in.

LEGISLATION: Hull introduced **Ord. 2012** & made a motion, seconded by Tyger that it be read by title only. Carried. ...**authorizing a cooperative agreement for design of the Wheathill Reservoir replacement project between the Village of EP & Ohio Water Development Authority...**Hull explained a loan may be used from OWDA. Hull made a motion, seconded by Tyger to suspend the rules & pass this as an emergency measure. Motion carried with 6 yes votes. Hull then called for a vote & there were 6 yes votes for passage. Hull introduced **Ord. 3-2012** & made a motion, seconded by Rauch that it be read by title. Carried. ...**consenting to annexation of 9.312 acres known as the "Brittain Motors Annexation"**...Hull explained that this consents to the annexation. Hull made a motion, seconded by Tyger to suspend rules & pass this as an emergency measure. Carried with 6 yes votes. Hull called for a vote. There were 6 yes votes for passage. Hull introduced **Ord. 4-2012** & made a motion, seconded by Tyger that it be read by title. Carried. ...**regarding municipal services to be rendered to the 9.312 acres known as the "Brittain Motors annexation"**... Clark told Council they need to agree on the wording to be placed in the blank in Section 1. He told them that Brittain's is planning a July 2013 opening. Council agreed that the words "18 months" should be placed into the blank on the legislation. Hull made a motion seconded by Tyger to suspend rules and pass this as an emergency. Carried with 6 yes votes. Hull called for a vote & there were 6 yes votes for passage. Hull made a motion, seconded by Elzer to table **Ord. 5-12 (...providing for the authorization of the Municipal Manager to further negotiate and enter into execute and accept an oil and gas lease as to municipal land, and declaring an emergency)**. Motion carried unanimously. It was noted that if there is a good offer made between meetings, a special meeting of Council can be called & this legislation can be passed at that time.

At this time Hull read a letter he had composed out loud. Hull started out by reading, "This past week I was approached about having an executive session. The subject of that was to remove Mr. Clark as City Manager. I was apparently counted on as a yes vote to remove him. I can tell you that I refused for this reason. At one time I was one of 5 that played a big part in the termination of a City Manager. I did not feel we were right in how we did it or how it was handled and I still don't. If Council as a whole is that dissatisfied with Mr. Clark and the performance of his duties, then do an evaluation in writing and give it to him and let him answer your remarks. Then if you, as Council members, are still dissatisfied, act on it accordingly. I will not say that everything Mr. Clark does makes me happy. Because it doesn't. But I do not want to go behind his back and blind side him with something this important, not only to him, but to our town. I can promise whatever happens will have to be honest and publicly correct or I will have no part in doing it. By the way, I'm speaking for myself, here. Furthermore, there's a couple things I'd like to add. The new sitting Council has only had two months of experience as Council members and I question how this developed, especially so quickly. And you must remember that previous Councils gave their stamp of approval with ordinances and resolutions on how the business of the City was to be handled. Mr. Clark takes care of the day to day. I had an experience Friday with a person that got upset with me to the point where he was slapping the table, telling me that somebody told him that Sunny won't stand with you guys to remove Mr. Clark from office. I was very upset when I left this man's presence and I will not soon forget this experience. I can assure you, that if handled correctly and fairly and in a just way, after forming my own opinion, I will act accordingly. In Charter government Council has the ultimate power. That is the reason I ran for Council instead of Mayor because there are some things would like to change. I worry a lot and only want what is fair. Not only to myself but to all our citizens. I'm sure that is what all of you as Council people want and I hope we can work together toward that end."

When Hull finished reading his prepared statement, Figley said that he was the person who was slamming the table, to which Hull responded, "I still love you, Fran." Figley continued on saying, "Sunny (Hull) was involved as much in that as anybody here. We talked about it. He encouraged it. We talked about it. He told me, 'I'm behind it, whatever you do. Yes, Sir.' " Figley told Hull "You talked that way until you talked to Margo." Hull said, "I never talked to Margo." Figley said, "Oh, yes you did." Hull said, "No, I didn't." Zuch said, "Yes, all you said was they wanted to get rid of Gary." Hull said, "Oh, that was after the fact." Zuch said, "Yes, that was after the fact." Figley said it was "before". Zuch said, "No, it was after the fact. It was after he talked to you." Hull then said, "If you do it honest and above board I'll do anything you want, but it's got to be above board." Figley then responded, "Nothing we did do was above board, Sunny. You encouraged it. You told me about it. You were unhappy with everything he's done. And now you're - I'll take the blame because I'll say, 'I want to do it. And I have the proof to want to do it. And I'll get it, too, before it's over.'" Hull said, "Didn't I say in this letter that there's some things I want to change?" Figley answered, "No. You missed - that letter's all bullshit." Hull said, "You didn't even hear what I said."

Figley said, "I heard what you said." Hull said, "That's your problem. You broadcast but you don't tune in." Figley said that he heard what was in the letter but that there are other people who were there when Hull "said the other things"

At the point, while Council was still in session, and while arguing between various Council members regarding Hull's letter was going on at the Council table, Manager Gary Clark distributed a letter he had written & typed to all those at the table. None of the Council members read the letter out loud, but it contained the following statement from the Manager: C

CONTENT OF LETTER FROM MANAGER WAS STRICKEN FROM THE RECORD BY MOTION BY ELZER, SECONDED BY HULL, CARRIED. IT WAS STRICKEN BY THE PROCEDURE LISTED IN WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER, SIMPLIFIED AND APPLIED, COPYRIGHT 1999, THAT READS AS FOLLOWS ON PAGES 167 AND 168: "APPROVAL AND CORRECTIONS OF MINUTES: NOTHING IS EVER ERASED FROM MINUTES. CORRECTIONS ARE MADE IN MARGIN. (IF THE MINUTES ARE DOUBLE-SPACED, THE CORRECTION CAN BE WRITTEN ABOVE WHAT IS CORRECT.) WHEN MATERIAL IS EXPUNGED, A LINE IS DRAWN THROUGH THE WORDS THAT ARE TO BE EXPUNGED. CROSSED OUT MATERIAL SHOULD STILL BE READABLE."

~~"I am sensing some unjustified harassment and discrimination from a few members of council. This surprised me since I feel I am open and agreeable to meeting with any and all of you. Now, I know this isn't the general consensus since many of you have expressed your support. I would like some reassurance that my position is secure. I am in the last 5 working years of my life and I have not, and will not give council reason to be dissatisfied with me.~~

~~There are several factors that cause me to believe prejudices could conflict with my fair evaluation:~~

~~Firstly, I understand that three of my potential evaluators have already decided to fire me. One of them is a new council member, who may not know my history and what my job entails.~~

~~The second member is also new and has told me at least six times since January that he's only on council to be a thorn in y side until I pave his street and then he'll resign. He lives on a dead-end street with four homes. The public would certainly see this as seeking preferential treatment.~~

~~The third member has been on council for over two years and has left many promises unfulfilled. He also violates housing and business maintenance ordinances on a continuing basis.~~

~~I always conduct myself in an open and professional manner and I don't feel it is too much to ask for the same treatment from my employers.~~

~~It has come to my attention that there are questions, inquiries, and concerns about my performance as the city manager. Since we have some rather new members of council, let me give some background, some history, as well as current projects that are underway. In September 2001, I was asked by City Council to leave my position as Chief of Police and become City Manager. The City had seen a procession of City Managers leave some significant problems unsolved.~~

~~The most serious problem pending was that the Ohio Attorney General was taking enforcement action against the City for failing to meet our discharge permit standards at the waste water treatment plant. The City was under a building ban. It took several years to finance and design plant improvements that met our discharge permit. We incurred debt I the project but had no alternative. We were breaking the law at the waste water plant. The improvements we made resulted in the building ban being lifted.~~

~~The next problem was that we were in default of a contract we had made with the school district. The City had failed to make certain paving and sidewalk improvements at the school campus areas. These were required as payment for the Captain Taggart building we acquired as City Hall. I received an extension of our deadline from the school district and secured funding for the project. In this case, the street committee of City Council even expanded the project beyond the scope of the contract we had with the schools. I found financing through the State Infrastructure Bank. This debt was unavoidable, we were in default of a contract.~~

~~Then I was confronted with a failing railroad overpass on West Street. This street is the central north-south axis of town. It is the best path for an ambulance or fire truck to use if a train blocks the North Market Street crossing. Except that by 2003, only passenger cars could safely use it. The bridge was in critical condition. It was 100 years old, built partially of wood and partially of iron. It was falling apart onto trains passing below it. The weight limit permitted only passenger cars to use it. Again, we had no alternative but to incur some debt on this project. However, 90% of the construction cost was borne by ODOT, the Ohio Rail Commission and the railroad.~~

~~I also had to deal with a massive flood that destroyed our waste water treatment plant. This disaster was repaired by grants I secured and I even secured further grants to mitigate against future floods. No debt incurred.~~

~~Another significant task I was given was to attempt to increase our population. The City had made commitments to aid developers beginning in 1998 with Claybrook condominiums. The City has continued that policy, always with council debating and approving expenditures in open meetings. The projects we invested in included Leslie Run Estates, The Vineyards and Covington Health Care Campus.~~

~~Economic distress has impacted the Manager's position in East Palestine. Just before I started here as Manager, the City Manager had support from a full time non-union superintendent in each of three departments: Park, Water & Wastewater and Streets. There was also a 32 hour/week Building and Zoning Inspector. Attrition has left me to absorb the 4 lost positions. I do the most critical duties from these positions because I have little choice. I have worked too hard building this community. I live here, my family lives here and my grandchildren are growing up here. I have a vested interest to make this the best place for all of us. To fund these missing positions as full time jobs today would cost the city nearly \$150,000 per year. I have been doing them as part of my job, although that is not in my job description. And I haven't heard of any other city managers working side by side with the maintenance crew or shoveling walks covered by snow in the early morning hours.~~

~~In 38 years here as Patrolman, Chief of Police and City Manager I have a spotless record. I have worked with 60 members of council, 7 Mayors, 5 Safety Service Directors and 5 City Managers without any serious conflict. I have not taken a sick day in over 10 years as Manager and have not refused or stalled any directive given me by Council. I work hard, give respect to the employees and public and have enthusiasm for my job. I do my best, always.~~

~~Each Council operates differently. I have worked with many. The current body has not set goals nor provided a direction. And this has worked in the past since I had the trust and confidence of the council members who knew I would be doing the right thing, serving to the best of my ability and meeting and exceeding expectations. I have done the best I could to identify our current obvious needs and keep council informed of work that needs done and how it can be funded. I have made plans to replace failing water mains and undersized sewer mains. Last year I concluded a 9,100 ft. paving project and a 5,000 ft. chip and seal project. I have several paving projects about to get underway this year. I have kept council informed of the work needed at the waste water treatment plant and the Wheathill reservoir. Our town, like others in the state and nation, has been hard hit by the recession. However, the economy is beginning to recover. Our region is about to reap the benefits of grants that have been approved and gas/oil that is about to be tapped. After steering us during hard times, I am looking forward to the future here when the fruits of all of our labor will be realized. I have worked in various capacities during my 38 years in East Palestine and wish to continue in my current position until retirement, five years from now.~~

Respectfully,

Gary A. Clark"

ADJOURN: Hull made a motion, seconded by Elzer to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Attest: _____ **Signed:** _____
Cindy Clark, Clerk Margo Zuch, Mayor/President of Council